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Message Text

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72
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SPC-03 H-03 INR-10 NSC-10 PA-03

PRS-01 USIA-15 /086 W
---------- 017468
R 201712Z SEP 73
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6725

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 5385

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR SP
SUBJ: EUROPEAN FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF RFE/RL:
STATUS OF PROPOSAL FOR GOS WAIVER OF ANNUAL FEE FOR RL OPERATION

REF A. MADRID 4050 B. STATE 169924

1. SINCE APPROACH REPORTED REF A, SEVERAL FURTHER EMBASSY APPROACHES HAVE BEEN MADE TO MFA ON SUBJECT. AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED IT AGAIN WITH FONMIN LOPEZ RODO DURING CALL ON HIM AT SAN SEBASTIAN AUGUST 23, NOTING APPROACHING DUE DATE OF SEPTEMBER 23 FOR ANNUAL PAYMENT OF FEE FOR RL OPERATION IN SPAIN. EMBASSY POL COUNSELOR PURSUED IT IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATIONS WITH SUBDIRECTOR GENERAL FOR NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS (PERINAT), REQUESTING GOS AGREEMENT TO DEFER PAYMENT IF GOS DECISION COULD NOT BE REACHED BEFORE THEN AND NOTING THAT MATTER HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BY DEPT OFFICER WITH FINANCE MIN UNDERSECRETARY FERNANDEZ IN WASHINGTON (PARA 1, REF B).

2. IN CONVERSATION SEPTEMBER 19, EMBOFF NOTED TO PRINAT THAT APPROPRIATION OF ONLY $45.9 MILLION FOR RFE/RL HAD REPORTEDLY BEEN APPROVED BY SENATE FOLLOWING $45 MILLION APPROPRIATION BY HOUSE. PERINAT AFFIRMED THAT MATTER HAD BEEN REFERRED TO MFA UNDERSECRETARY WHO TALKED TO INFO MINISTRY UNDERSECRETARY ABOUT IT, ADDING THAT MATTER WAS LIKELY TO COME UP AT CABINET MEETING SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 21. MFA UNDERSECRETARY, HE SAID, KNEW ABOUT THE
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SEPTEMBER 23 DUE DATE AND THE REQUEST FOR DEFERRAL OF

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PAYMENT PENDING A GOS DECISION OF THE PROPOSED WAIVER OF
THE ANNUAL RL OPERATION FEE. FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH RF REP
MADRID EMB SENT AIDE-MEMOIRE SEPT 20 CONFIRMING ORAL REQUEST
FOR DEFERRAL OF PAYMENT IF GOS DECISION ON MATTER NOT REACHED
BY SEPTEMBER 23.
RIVERO

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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To: STATE
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